

State Water Resources Control Board

APR - 6 2018

Mr. Tomas Torres, Director
Water Division (WTR-1)
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

Dear Mr. Torres:

ADMINISTRATION OF CALIFORNIA'S INTEGRATED REPORT

On February 5, 2018, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) submitted California's 2014 and 2016 Integrated Report to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in accordance with Clean Water Act sections 303(d) and 305(b).

Prior to approving California's 2014 and 2016 section 303(d) list, we received comments concerning waterbodies within the Sacramento and the San Joaquin River watersheds, asserting that data suggested the waterbodies may be elevated for temperature. However, because much of the data on which the comments relied were not submitted in response to the pertinent listing cycle's solicitation letter,¹ the data were not evaluated to develop the 2014 and 2016 Integrated Report.

Consistent with existing statutory and regulatory authorities, the State Water Board retains flexibility in how it implements its Clean Water Act 303(d) program responsibilities. In 2015, by Resolution No. 2015-0005, the State Water Board amended the Water Quality Control Policy for Developing California's Clean Water Act Section 303(d) List (the Listing Policy) to improve the manner in which the State Water Board and the Regional Water Quality Control Boards (collectively, Water Boards) implement its Clean Water Act section 303(d) program. One of the cornerstones of the amended policy is the ability for the Water Boards to administer the listing process for waterbodies located in regions that are "off cycle" when there is high-priority data for the waterbodies of interest. (Listing Policy, Section 6.1.2.1.)

For the 2018 listing cycle, the State Water Board will consider whether the above-noted waterbodies should be prioritized for such an off-cycle assessment. The off-cycle prioritization would be informed by several factors, including whether the Water Boards have sufficient resources to administer the off-cycle listing process while maintaining our ability to timely complete the 2018 Integrated Report.

¹ See State Water Board Resolution No. 2015-0005 (affirming that for the 2012, 2014, and 2016 Integrated Reports, data and information submitted in response to the 2010 notice of solicitation would be assessed and considered).

To make determinations of water quality standards attainment, the Water Boards that administer the listing process evaluate data and information that is submitted to the California Environmental Data Exchange Network (CEDEN). (Listing Policy, Sections 6.1.1 and 6.1.2.1.) Data and information that CEDEN is unable to accept, such as continuous temperature data, will be evaluated if its submission meets the quality assurance requirements of section 6.1.4 of the Listing Policy.

If you have any questions on this subject, please contact Rebecca Fitzgerald, Chief of the Water Quality Standards and Assessment Section, at (916) 341-5775 or Rebecca.Fitzgerald@waterboards.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Eileen Sobeck
Executive Director

cc: Mr. Terrance Fleming, WTR-2
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